

**REMARKS**

The allowance of claims 2-11 and 17 is noted, with thanks.

Claims 1, 15, 16 and 26 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 6, 17-21 and 27 have been amended to correct minor informalities and to clarify the invention. New claims 28-31 have been added to further scope the invention, and are based largely on canceled claims 1, 15, 16, and 26.

No new matter has been entered by any of the foregoing amendments.

Turning to the Examiner's objections to claims 1, 6, 16-21, 26 and 27, claims 1, 16 and 26 have been canceled, thus rendering moot those objections. As for the remaining objections to claims 6, 27-21 and 27, these claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, it is believed all of the Examiner's objections have been overcome.

Turning to the rejection of claim 1 and of claims 15, 16, 18-21, 26 and 27 under 35 USC §112, claims 1, 15, 16 and 26 have been canceled, thus rendering moot the §112 rejections. As for the remaining rejections of claims 18-21 and 27, these claims have been amended to distinctly claim the subject matter Applicant regards as the invention. Thus, it is believed the Examiner's rejections have been overcome.

Turning to the rejection of claims 1 and 15 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by McNeill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,150,872), and the rejection of claims 16 and 26 as obvious from McNeill et al., claims 1, 15, 16 and 26 have been cancelled, thus rendering moot the art rejections. Insofar as new claims 28-31 are concerned, nowhere does McNeill et al. teach OTAs. While the Examiner asserts that the operational amplifiers in FIG. 1 could be OTAs, the Examiner is overlooking the structural differences between an OTA and op-amp. First, OTAs

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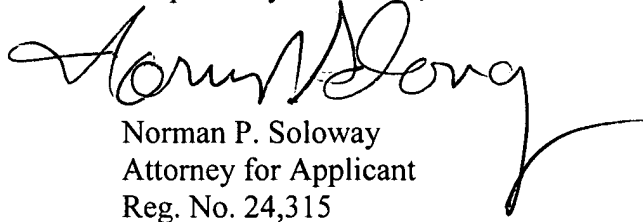
are biased by an input current. McNeill et al. clearly shows VAMP1 and VAMP2 being biased voltage  $V_{BIAS}$  (FIG. 1). Unless the Examiner is asserting that a bias voltage and a bias current are the same thing, McNeill et al. does not teach VAMP1 and VAMP2 being OTAs. Second, OTAs receive a voltage input and output a current. However, in McNeill et al., VAMP1 clearly has a gate voltage  $V_{GATE}$ . Thus, neither VAMP1 nor VAMP2 can be an OTA, and none of new claims 28-31 can be said to be anticipated by or obvious from McNeill et al.

Non-elected claims 12-14 and 22-25 have been withdrawn, and will be cancelled upon allowance of the Application.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

A credit card payment Form PTO-2038 authorizing a charge in the amount of \$856.00 for the RCE filing fee (\$770.00) and added claim fee (\$86.00) accompanies this Amendment. In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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